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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/039,795	10/19/2001	Yong Tuck Lee	SS-31	9199

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EXAMINER

WOO, STELLA L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2643

DATE MAILED: 03/09/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/039,795

Applicant(s)

LEE, YONG TUCK

Examiner

Stella L. Woo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 October 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 6, page 28, lines 19-20, "the received group number" lacks proper antecedent basis.

In claim 6, page 28, lines 21-22, "the received contact number" lacks proper antecedent basis.

In claim 6, page 28, lines 23-24, "the group consisting of a telephone number and an e-mail address" lacks proper antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

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2. Claims 1, 5, 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Beaton et al. (US 6,526,129 B1).

Regarding claims 1, 5, Beaton et al. disclose a method for storing contact information comprising the steps of:

storing in a database information about a plurality of groups (central server 106 stores contact information for groups of individuals, e.g. home, social, work; Figure 5; col. 5, lines 1-6);

storing in a database information about a contact (central server 106 stores information about a contact, including the contact's relationship with the user, the contact's address, communication devices, e.g. home phone, business phone, cellular phone, pager, fax machine, voicemail, or e-mail, associated with contact and availability schedule; Figure 8; col. 5, lines 14-63);

linking the stored information about a contact to at least one of the plurality of groups (contacts can be configured into home, social, and work categories; col. 5, lines 1-6);

receiving a request for stored information about a contact (user enters the name or identification number of the individual the user wishes to contact; Figure 16; col. 7, lines 1-5);

providing stored information about a contact in response to the request (the contact information is retrieved and presented on the user's display (Figure 18; col. 7, lines 7-16).

Regarding claim 16, Beaton et al. disclose a system for storing contact information for a user comprising:

a database (central server 106 includes a memory 105 stores user information; col. 3, lines 57-67; col. 4, lines 25-28; the information including the contact's relationship with the user,

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the contact's address, communication devices, e.g. home phone, business phone, cellular phone, pager, fax machine, voicemail, or e-mail, associated with contact and availability schedule;

Figures 5, 8; col. 5, lines 1-6, 14-63);

a server (central server 106 can be accessed over the Internet, Intranet or dial-up service by computer users; col. 3, lines 52-58);

a telephone (users can access the central server 106 via mobile phone 109, ADSI telephone 110 or ordinary telephone 111 (col. 4, lines 20-23);

wherein the server is further configured to receive a request for contact information from the user (user can access the central via any variety of devices, including a telephone (col. 4, lines 20-23), to request contact information (col. 4, lines 1-8).

Regarding claim 17, the server engages contact as selected by the user (col. 4, lines 5-8).

Regarding claim 18, Beaton et al. provides for communication via e-mail (e-mail button 864), audio message (voicemail button 862) and conversion between different communication types (col. 5, line 64 – col. 6, line 20).

3. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sussman (US 5,483,586).

Sussman discloses a method for storing contact information comprising the steps of:

authenticating a user (user directory access requires a user identification code and password; col. 7, lines 10-19);

receiving group information from a user (user can assign names for different lists, e.g. family, friends, general; col. 6, lines 47-51);

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receiving contact information from a user (user selects entries to add to a personal list; col. 6, lines 40-47; col. 4, lines 38-64);

storing (personal lists are stored in user directory 10; col. 6, lines 40-51);

receiving a telephonic request from a user for contact information (user accesses on-line directories 9 and 10 as well as central on-line database system 3 via the subscriber's DTMF telephone 6; col. 5, lines 48-52; col. 5, line 61 – col. 6, line 39); and

providing contact information to a user (search results are presented to the user for selection; col. 6, lines 26-34).

4. Claims 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Noto et al. (US 4,885,580).

Noto et al. disclose a computerized method for storing contact information comprising the steps of:

storing a group number for at least one group (group numbers and group names are used to identify different contact groups; Figure 5; col. 3, line 50 – col. 4, line 3);

storing a group number and a contact number (contact telephone numbers are stored within different groups; col. 3, line 66 – col. 4, line 5);

receiving from a user a selection (user selects the group by entering the group number, see Figure 5, and a contact number by selecting the desired contact name, see Figure 6, col. 4, lines 8-9);

connecting the user (the selected contact is dialed; col. 4, lines 9-10).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 2-4, 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beaton et al. in view of Noto et al. (US 4,885,580).

The method of Beaton et al. differs from claims 2-4, 6-9 in that although it teaches identifying different groups by name (home, social, work; Figure 5), it does not teach using a group number. However, Noto et al. teach the well known use of group numbers as well as group names to identify different contact groups (Figure 5; col. 3, line 50 – col. 4, line 3) such that it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill to incorporate the use of group numbers, as taught by Noto et al., within the method of Beaton et al. in order to allow for quicker selection of groups by using numbers.

Regarding claims 6-9, Beaton et al. provides for communication via telephone (desktop phone button 852, mobile phone button 854), e-mail (e-mail button 864), audio message (voicemail button 862), video message (video conferencing button 850, video mail button 860) (col. 5, lines 34-40) and conversion between different communication types (col. 5, line 64 – col. 6, line 20).

7. Claims 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sussman in view of Noto.

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The method of Sussman differs from claims 11-15 in that although it teaches identifying different groups by name (Family, Friends, General; col. 6, lines 47-51), it does not teach using a group number. However, Noto et al. teach the well known use of group numbers as well as group names to identify different contact groups (Figure 5; col. 3, line 50 – col. 4, line 3) such that it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill to incorporate the use of group numbers, as taught by Noto et al., within the method of Sussman in order to allow for quicker selection of groups by using numbers.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Stuntebeck et al. show a centralized directory service which can be accessed via computer or telephone over Internet, wireless, or telephone networks. Pershan shows using a group number to identify a groups of contacts. Darden, Bayless et al., Molne, Sassin et al., Wood et al., and Grunsted et al. show other directory database systems.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stella L. Woo whose telephone number is (703) 305-4395. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Tuesday, Thursday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz can be reached on (703) 305-4708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stella L. Woo', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stella L. Woo
Primary Examiner
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